

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claim 4 for clarification only, without altering or narrowing its scope in any way.

Accordingly, claims 1-8, 11-18 and 26-45 remain pending.

35 U.S.C. § 112

The Office Action rejected claims 3-4 as indefinite.

In particular, the Office Action stated that “the substrate” was unclear in claim 3, and “the deposited coating” was unclear in claim 4.

Applicants have amended claim 3 to clarify that the substrate being mentioned is the mask substrate first recited in claim 2. Regarding claim 4, Applicants respectfully submit that “the deposited coating” clearly refers to the coating recited as being deposited on the mask substrate in claim 2, as claim 1 only recites a “material” and does not recite “coating.”

Accordingly, in view of the amendment and comments above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 3-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 be withdrawn.

OBVIOUSNESS-TYPE DOUBLE PATENTING

Without agreeing with, or acquiescing to, the statement in the Office Action that the claims are unpatentable over the claims of the parent U.S. Patent 6,656,373 (alone, or in combination with Balz), but in order to allow an immediate allowance of this application, Applicants hereby submit a “Terminal Disclaimer” for this application over the term of U.S. Patent 6,656,373. The Terminal Disclaimer is signed by an attorney of record for this application.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing explanations, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and reexamine the present application, allow claims 1-8, 11-18 and 26-45, and pass the application to issue. In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Kenneth D. Springer (Reg. No. 39,843) at (703) 715-0870 to discuss these matters.


If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0238 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


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